

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife & Fisheries

January 10, 2013



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Updates
 - Fisheries Division Update
 - Netting Regulations (FO-229) – for Director's information
 - Wildlife Division Update
 - Kirtland's Warbler Nesting Areas (LUOD-1) – for Director's action
 - Elk Harvest Update
 - Status Update on Wolves



Fisheries Division Update



Jim Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division
January 10, 2013



January Notes of Interest

- Ice fishing....finally!
- Division wide meeting
- Advisory Committees
- Michigan Fish Producers
- Accomplishment Reports
- Volunteer Coordination



Fisheries Orders for Information



Nick Popoff, Tribal and Regulatory Affairs
Fisheries Division
January 10, 2013



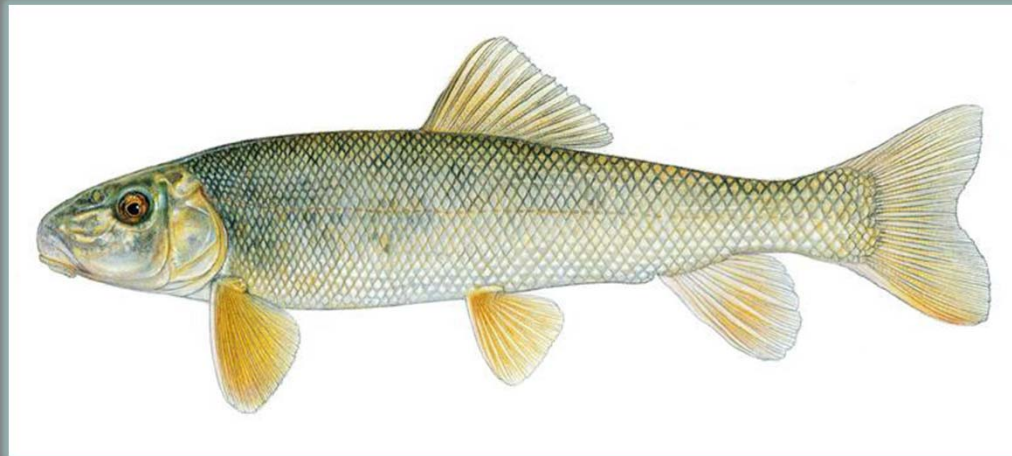
For Information: FO-229 Netting Regulations

- Public Act 471 of 2012
 - Repealed language referring to dip netting
 - Gives the DNR authority to regulate dip nets



For Information: FO-229 Netting Regulations

- Moves dip-netting opener to March 20
- Consolidates and simplifies hand and dip netting seasons Statewide instead of by Peninsula
- Rescinds two Orders by consolidation into FO-229



Thank You



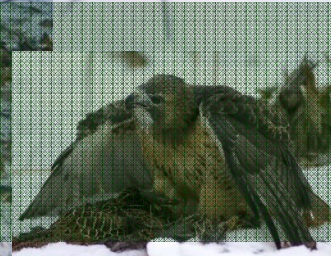
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Wildlife Division Update



**Russ Mason, Chief
Wildlife Division
January 10, 2013**



Pure Michigan Hunt

- Total for 2012:
 - 29,295 apps sold to 9,484 people
 - Revenue generated = \$117,180
 - 2012 slightly down from 2011
 - 40 fewer applications were sold
 - 1,380 less people purchased applications
 - 2012 saw a significant sales lead over 2011 late October thru early November – ahead 4,248 apps!
 - Last week of sales:
 - 11,888 applications in 2011
 - About 7,000 applications in 2012



Michigan Waterfowl Stamp Program

- Partnership between the Michigan Duck Hunters Association (MDHA) and the DNR since 1998
- MDHA is dedicated to waterfowl and wetland conservation.



Kirtland's Warbler Nesting Areas

- Closure May 1 – August 15
- Updates reflect current nesting data
 - Difference between current regulations (set in 2007) and LUOD 1 of 2013:
 - Overall result is an additional 9.169 square miles of closure

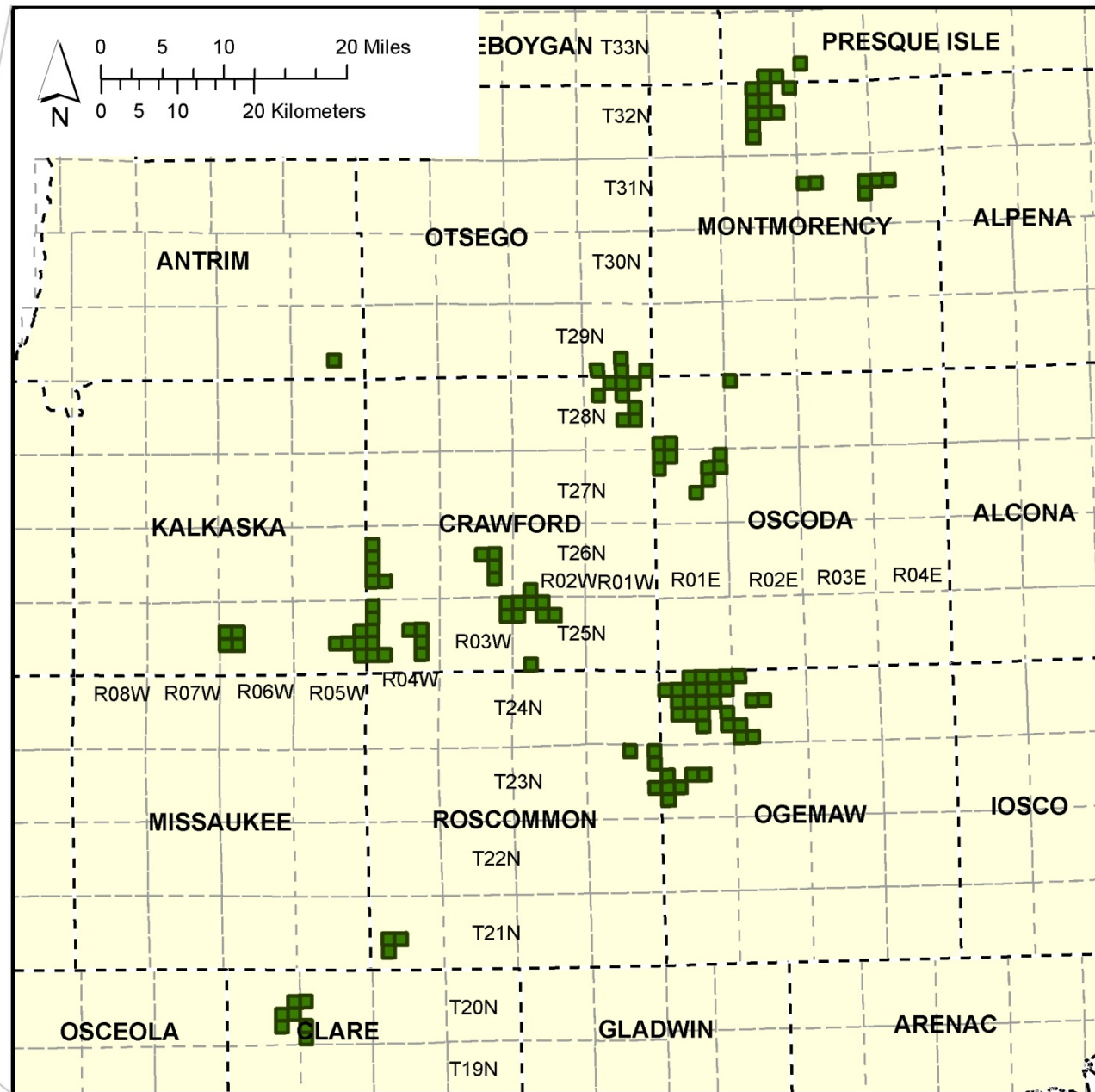




Legend

-
- Michigan**
- Location
of
Detailed
Area
(to right)**

Rev. 2013-01-02 -WLD/MLS



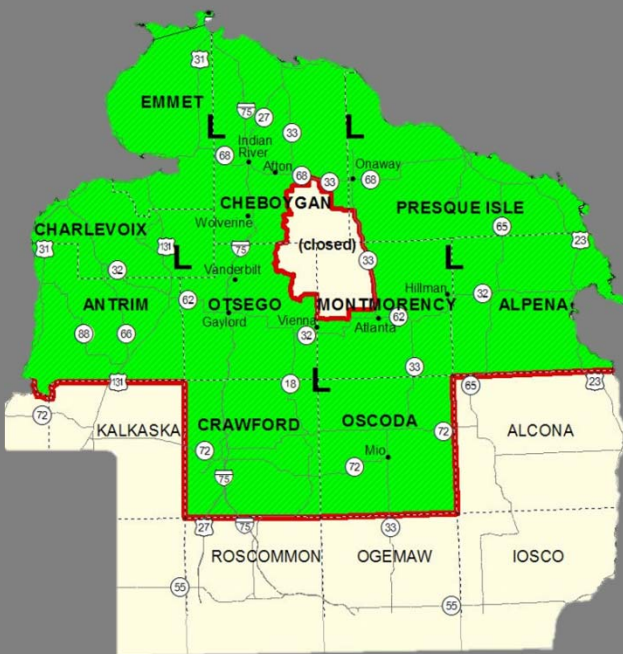
2012 Elk Season Summary

- Objective:
 - License Quota: 200
 - Expected Quota Harvest: 170
 - Expected Total Harvest: 190
- Results: 167 Legally + 6 Illegally Harvested
 - 149 by state quota hunters
 - 3 by Pure Michigan hunters
 - 15 by tribal hunters

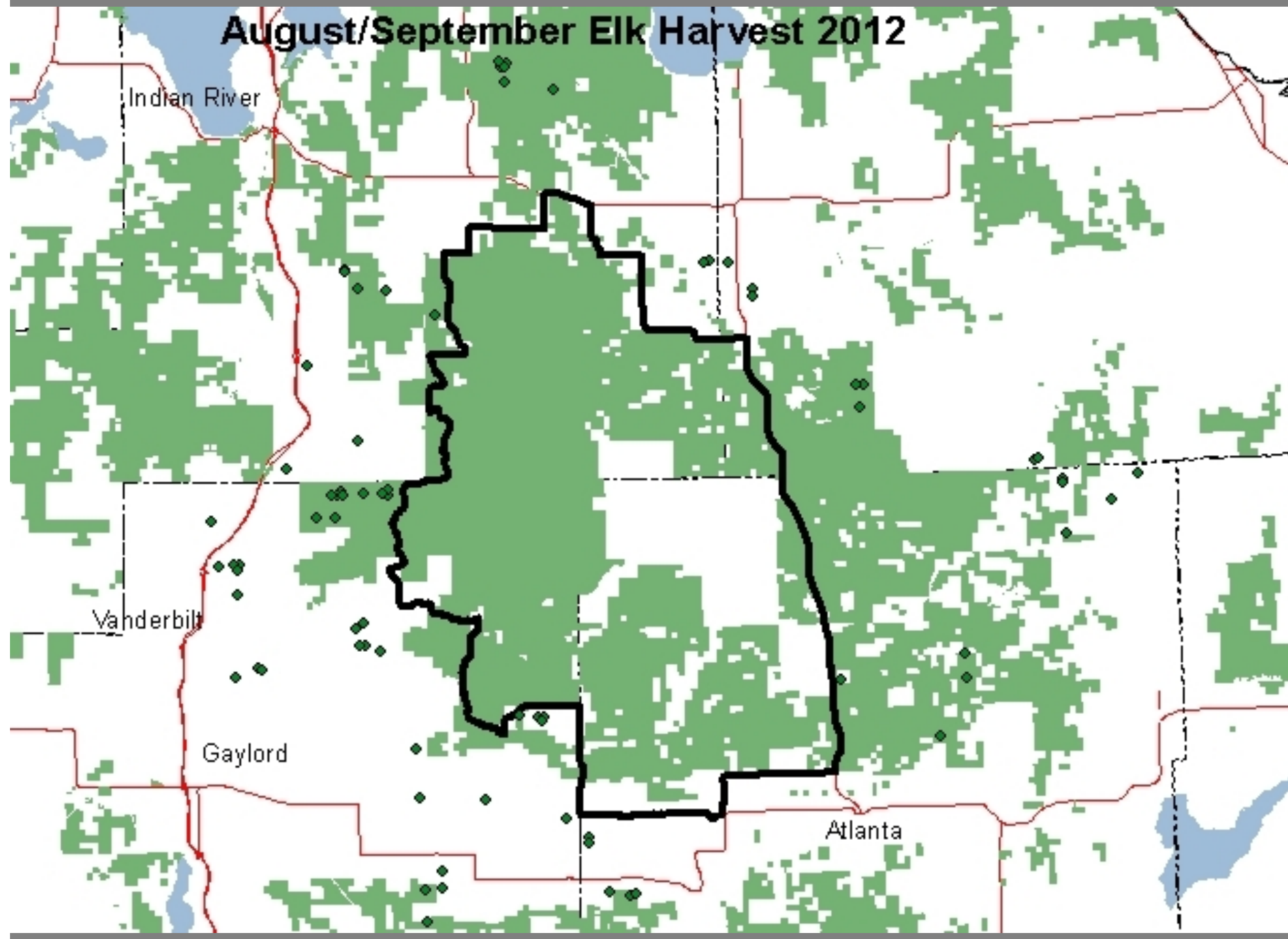


Elk Harvest – Hunt 1

- Hunt Period 1 Harvest
 - State hunter harvest: 68 legally harvested elk
 - 26 antlered elk (bulls)
 - Including harvest by one Pure Michigan Hunter
 - 42 antlerless elk (cows and calves)
 - 66% success (similar to previous years)
 - Tribal harvest
 - 5 antlered elk (bulls), 2 antlerless elk (cow)
 - Illegal harvest
 - 1 cow in closed area
 - 1 calf concealed behind a cow

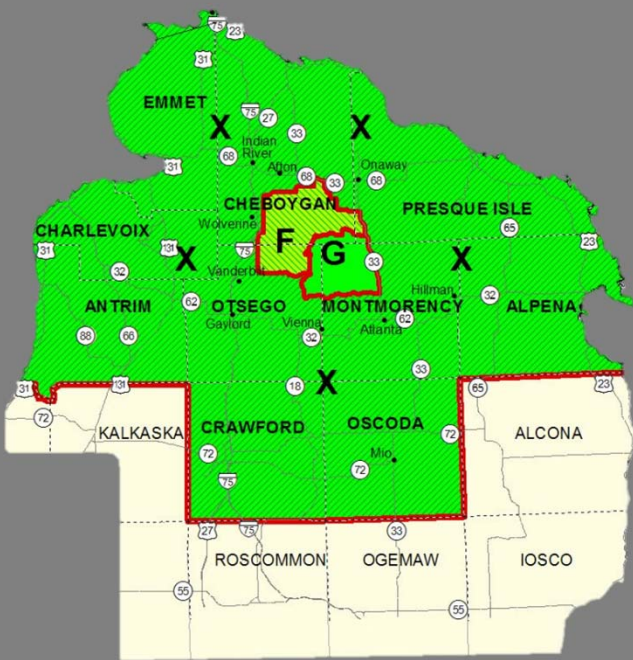


August/September Elk Harvest 2012



Elk Harvest – Hunt 2

- Hunt Period 2 Harvest
 - State hunter harvest: 84 legally harvested elk
 - 30 antlered elk (bulls)
 - Including harvest by two Pure Michigan Hunters
 - 54 antlerless elk (cows and calves)
 - 86% success (similar to previous years)
 - Tribal harvest
 - 1 antlered elk (bull)
 - 7 antlerless elk (cows)
 - Illegal harvest
 - 1 cow out of area
 - 3 bulls taken on antlerless only tags
 - TB suspects
 - 1 bull



December Elk Harvest 2012

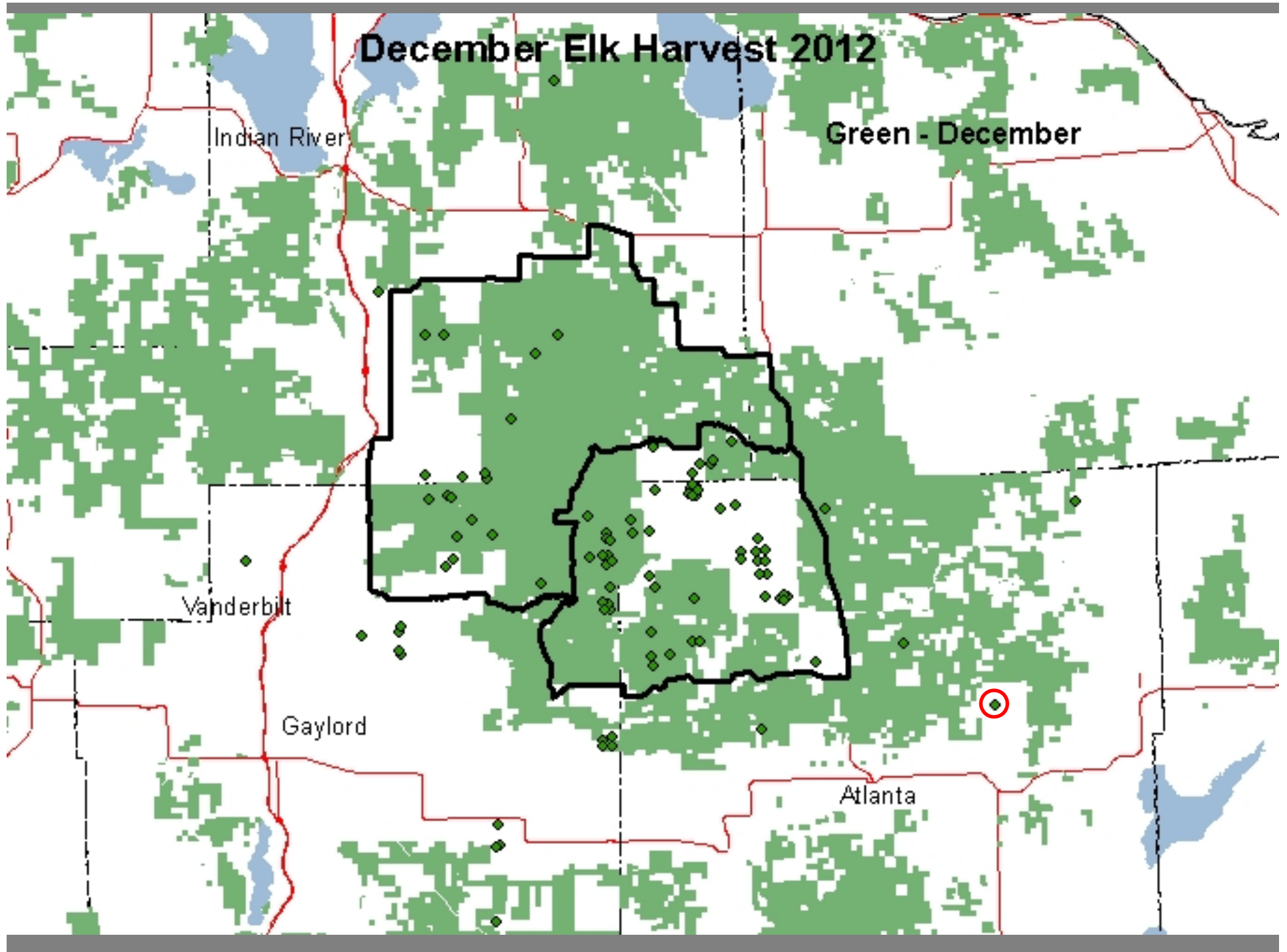
Green - December

Indian River

Vanderbilt

Gaylord

Atlanta



Thank You

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Wolf Management Update



Adam Bump, Bear and Furbearer Specialist
Wildlife Division
January 10, 2013



Wolves in the Upper Great Lakes: Background

- Michigan Wolf Management History
- First Seasons in Minnesota and Wisconsin

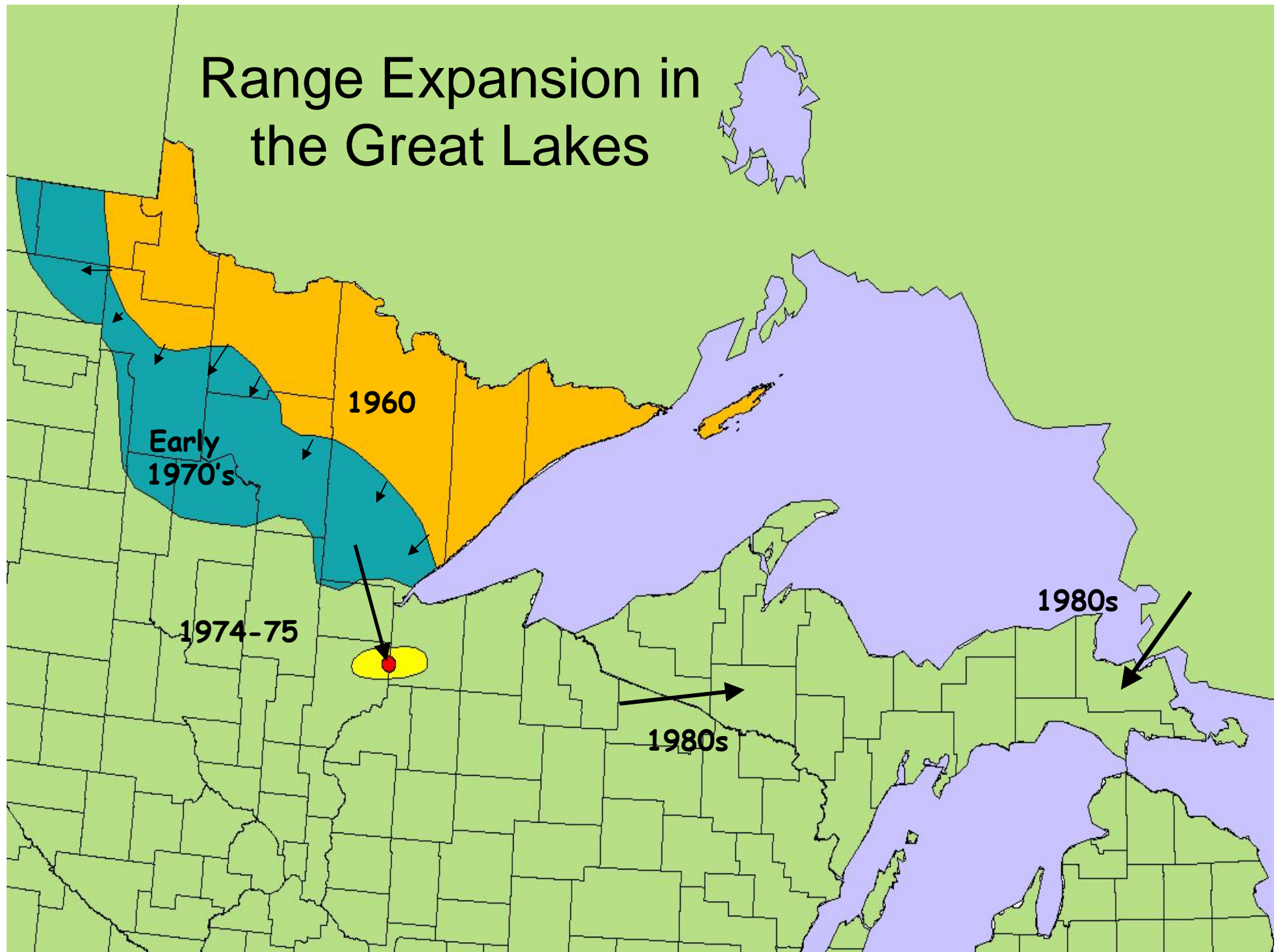


Wolves in Michigan

- Widespread prior to European settlement
- One of first laws in MI was bounty
- Full State protection in 1965
 - By then nearly extirpated
 - Only remnants in Upper Peninsula
- Federal protection 1973



Range Expansion in the Great Lakes



Michigan's First Management Plan

- 1990 – Opinion survey (Kellert)
 - 64% in UP supported wolf recovery
 - 57% in LP supported wolf recovery
- 1992 – Recovery Team established
 - State, Federal, and Tribal government staff
- 1993 – Public meetings (15)
- 1997 & 1998 – Plan written and approved
 - Protect and allow to increase
 - Monitor, research, education



Need for Updated Plan

- Since 1998, the context has changed
 - Population abundance and distribution
 - Greater understanding of the ecology
 - Legal framework shifting



Shift focus from recovery of an endangered species to more active management of wolf-human issues.

Wolf Management Roundtable June through November 2006

- Citizen/agency group, 20 represented
- Membership had range of attitudes and values
- Charged with recommending “guiding principles” to the DNR
- 10 days of meetings
- Final Report Issued



Plan Revision

- Plan was revised
 - Consistent with Roundtable's guiding principles
- Presented to NRC in August 2007
- 90-day public comment period
- Incorporated comments
- Signed by Director in July 2008
- 3 years, 2 months, plus early planning



Seasons in MN/WI

- Both states had harvest seasons in 2012
- Manner and method of take prescribed in statute
- Hunting and trapping allowed in both states
- States had several open zones each with call-in quota systems
 - Zones closed when quota reached



MN/WI Season Summary

| State | Expected Harvest | Licenses Issued | Harvest |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Minnesota | 400 | 6,123 | 413 |
| Wisconsin | 116* | 1,160 | 117 |



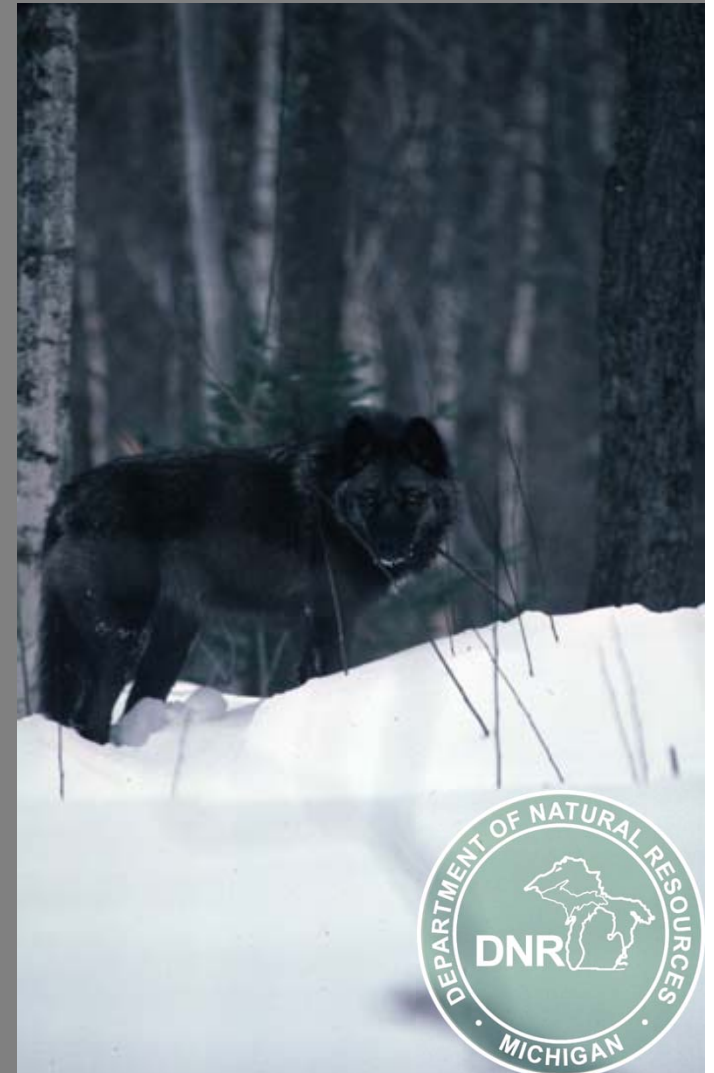
Wolves as Game Species in Michigan

- Public Act 520 of 2012 was signed into law on December 28
 - Added wolves to the game species list
 - Established first season and license fees
 - NRC to determine manner and method of take



Public Harvest in the Wolf Management Plan

- Section 6.12 of the Plan
 - Two categories of take:
 - Recreational/utilitarian
 - Conflict resolution



Public Harvest in the Wolf Management Plan: Section 6.12

- Recreational/Utilitarian Harvest
 - Only issue with no consensus from Wolf Roundtable
 - Plan outlines several action items before considering



Public Harvest in the Wolf Management Plan: Section 6.12

- Conflict Resolution
 - Public harvest to resolve conflicts supported by Plan and Roundtable if:
 - Targeted lethal or nonlethal controls are ineffective or not logistically feasible
 - Wolf densities are found to be primary cause of conflicts in localized area
 - Option to use public harvest for addressing conflicts that cannot otherwise be resolved
 - Evaluate local situations on a case-by-case basis
 - If implemented, evaluate to ensure public harvest does not threaten long-term viability

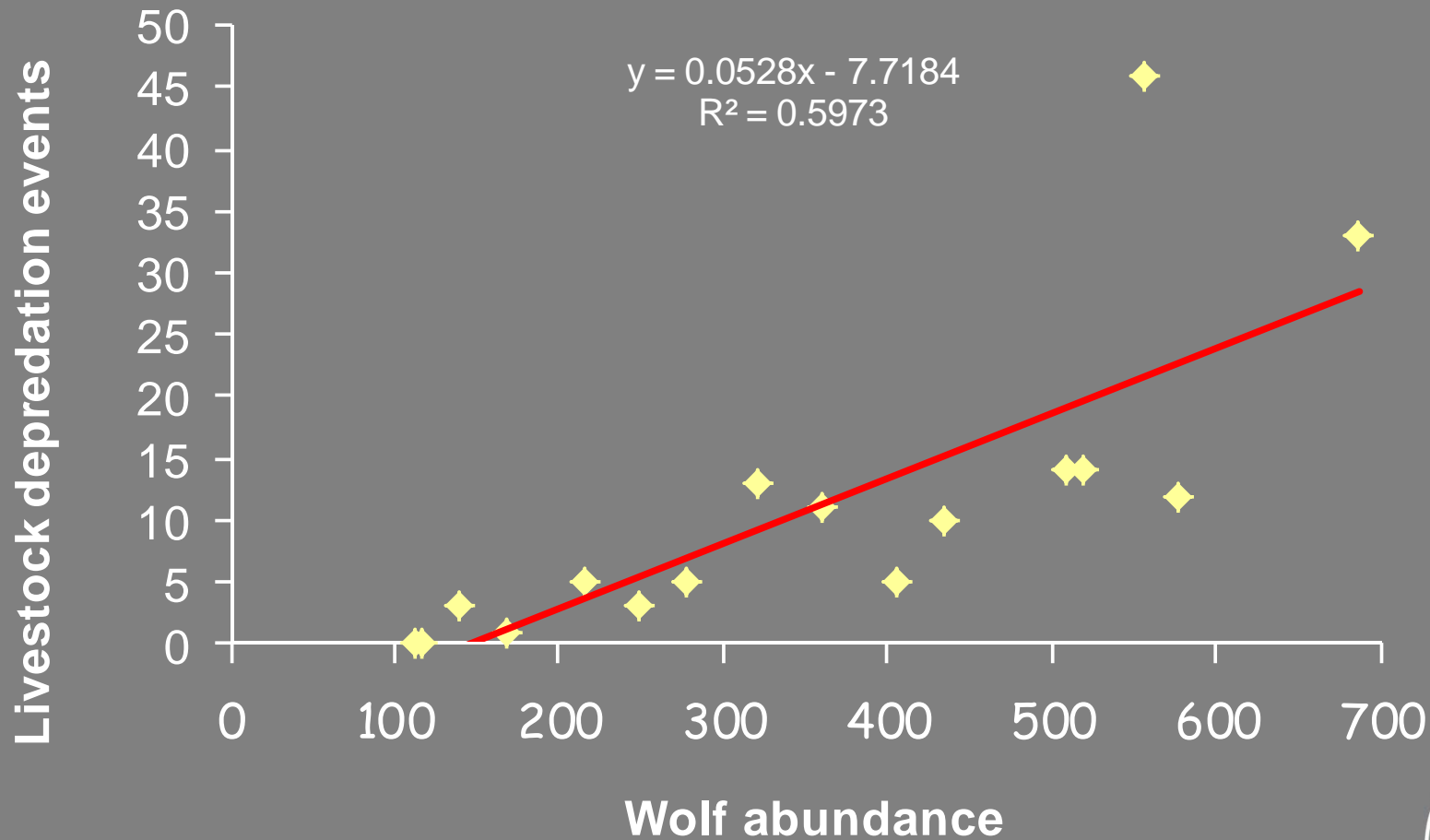


Public Harvest Consideration Warranted?

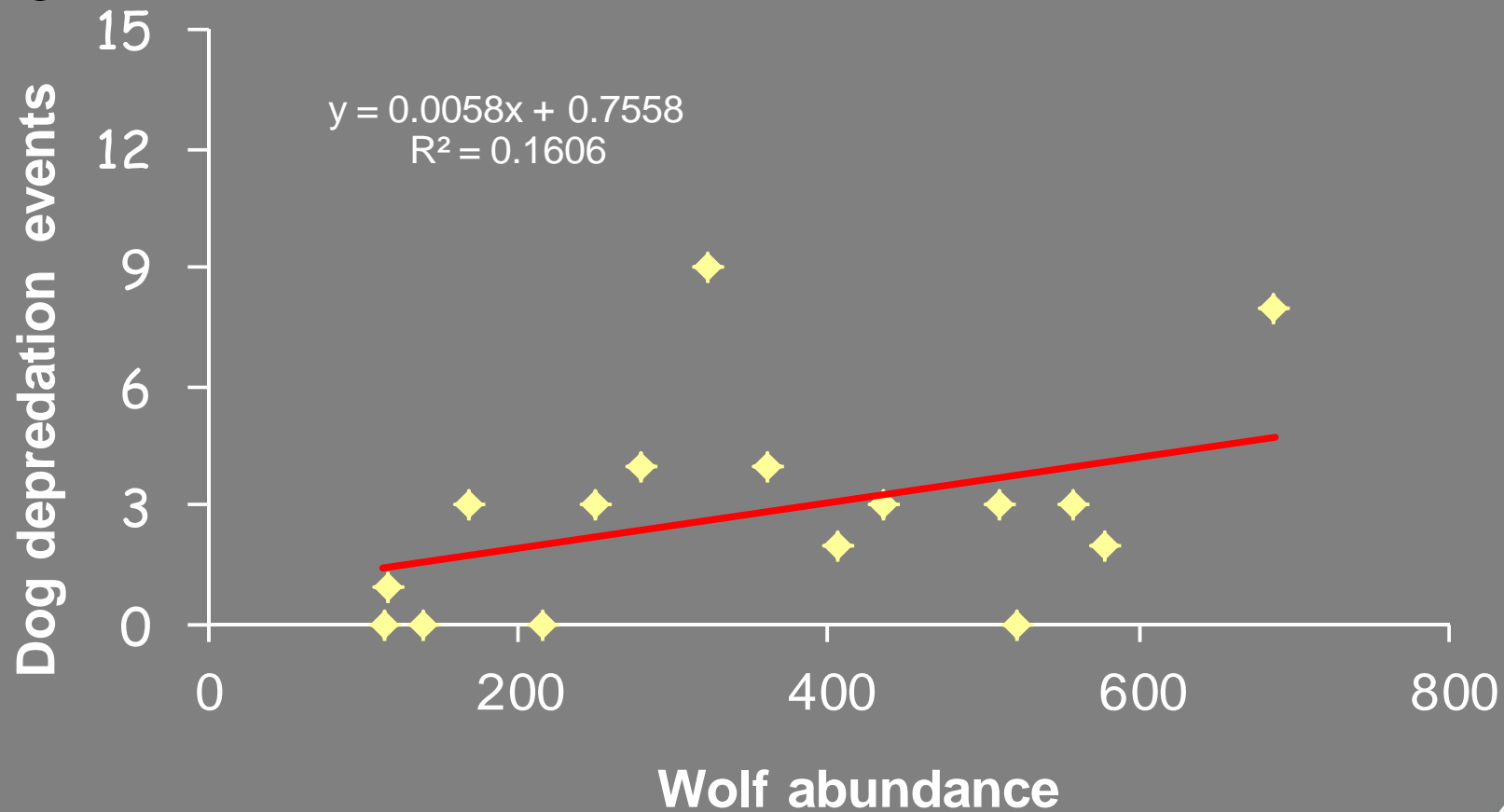
- Yes; begin discussions
 - Chronic conflicts despite lethal and nonlethal techniques in Ironwood/Gogebic County
 - Chronic conflicts with depredation/dog incidents in localized areas
 - Difficult to resolve effectively with current techniques
 - Feasible to use public harvest to resolve issues



Wolf Abundance and Number of Livestock Depredation Events Upper Peninsula of Michigan, 1996-2011



Wolf Abundance and Number of Dog Depredation Events Upper Peninsula of Michigan, 1996-2011



Recommended Next Steps

January

- Tribal Engagement – Meet with 1836 Consent Decree Tribal Biologists
- Begin Abundance Survey

February

- Wolf Forum Meeting
- Tribal Consultation – Meetings with Michigan Tribes

March

- Public Engagement – Conduct series of meetings
- Tribal Consultation – Meetings with Michigan Tribes

April

- Wolf Forum Meeting
- Complete Abundance Survey/Estimate
- Summarize depredation and conflict information to date

May/June

- Recommend Proposed Season Structure



Thank You



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